

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W

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P R 042100Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC 6116

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0419

FOR: IPS, IBS

E.O. 11652: N/A

FOLLOWING IS A REPORT BY VOA CORRESPONDENT
RUSSELL SPLANE FROM SAN JOSE ON SUNDAY'S ELECTION RETURNS--

"DANIEL ODUBER, CANDIDATE OF THE RULING NATIONAL
LIBERATION PARTY, APPARENTLY WILL EKE OUT A NARROW
FIRST-BALLOT VICTORY IN THE RACE FOR PRESIDENT OF COSTA
RICA. WITH FEWER THAN HALF THE VOTES COUNTED FROM SUNDAY'S
BALLOTING, MISTER ODUBER HAS JUST OVER 41 PERCENT OF THE
VOTE AND HE'S EXPECTED TO KEEP CLOSE TO THAT PERCENTAGE
FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE COUNT. A MINIMUM OF 40
PERCENT IS REQUIRED TO CLINCH A VICTORY WITHOUT A RUN-OFF.
THE RULING PLN PARTY DID NOT FARE THAT WELL IN THE
CONTEST FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEATS.

THE PRELIMINARY DEPUTY COUNT MONDAY MORNING SHOWED
THE PARTY WITH ONLY THIRTY-EIGHT PERCENT OF THE VOTES.
THE PARTY NOW HOLDS A MAJORITY OF THE SEATS IN
THE CHAMBER.

THE COSTA RICAN COMMUNISTS--REPRESENTED BY THE
SOCIALIST ACTION PARTY--APPARENTLY SUFFERED A SETBACK.
THE PARTY IS WINNING LESS THAN FIVE PERCENT OF THE
DEPUTY VOTES, WITH TWO OTHER MINOR LEFTIST PARTIES OBTAINING
LESS THAN TWO PERCENT EACH. AT THAT RATE, THE
COMMUNIST PROBABLY WILL LOSE ONE OF THE TWO ASSEMBLY SEATS
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THEY NOW HOLD." ITEM

STEWART

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